

## Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW TELEX MSG NO 22 280100Z AUG 77.

FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF AMBASSADOR TOON'S PRESS CONFERENCE  
WITH RESIDENT U.S. CORRESPONDENTS, HELD AT THE EMBASSY'S COMMERCIAL  
OFFICE, BEGINNING 1840 LOCAL TIME, AUGUST 27, 1977:

BEFORE TAKING YOUR QUESTIONS, I WOULD LIKE TO GO THROUGH THE  
SCENARIO OF WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT IN ORDER TO GIVE YOU AN  
UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HAPPENED, WHEN IT HAPPENED, AND WHERE WE  
STAND NOW.

SOMETIME BETWEEN 1000 AND 1030 LAST NIGHT FIRE BROKE OUT. LIGHTS

IN THE CHANCERY AND IN THE NORTH WING LIVING QUARTERS ADJACENT  
TO THE CHANCERY BEGAN TO BLINK. THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR,  
MR TRACY, OBSERVED SMOKE COMING FROM WHAT WE CALL THE C AND R  
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SECTION, ON THE NINTH FLOOR, AND HE PROCEEDED THERE IN A HURRY.  
AT ABOUT 1045, THE NIGHT COMMUNICATOR, WHO WAS ON DUTY IN THE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION, CONSULTED WITH MR. TRACY. SMOKE IN THE  
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS AREA WAS SO DENSE THAT THEY DECIDED  
TO EVACUATE AND TO LOCK THE VAULT, WHICH IS THE WORD WE USE TO  
DESCRIBE THE SECURE COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS AREA. JUST ABOUT  
THIS TIME THE SMOKE DETECTOR SYSTEMS BEGAN RINGING IN THE UPPER

FLOORS OF THE CHANCERY. MEANWHILE, THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION, WHO WAS IN THE COMPOUND, HAD BEEN NOTIFIED AND RUSHED TO THE SCENE, AND, AFTER SURVEYING THE SITUATION, IN CONSULTATION WITH MR TRACEY AND OTHERS, ORDERED THE EVACUATION OF THE CHANCERY AS WELL AS THE NORTH AND SOUTH WINGS.

MARINES FIGHTING THE FIRE ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR ENCOUNTERED DENSE SMOKE AND HEAT. ONE OF OUR MARINES FAINTED FROM INHALATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WAS TAKEN TO BOTKIN HOSPITAL, WHERE HE WAS GIVEN TREATMENT. I SHOULD SAY AT THIS POINT THAT I WAS AT THE RUMANIAN EMBASSY ATTENDING A FAREWELL DINNER FOR ONE OF MY AMBASSADORIAL COLLEAGUES, AND I WAS INFORMED BY TELEPHONE ABOUT TEN MINUTES TILL ELEVEN THAT FIRE HAD BROKEN OUT IN THE CHANCERY, THAT IT SEEMED SERIOUS AND THAT MY PRESENCE WAS NEEDED. I PROCEEDED AT ONCE TO THE CHANCERY, ARRIVING ABOUT QUARTER PAST OR TWENTY PAST ELEVEN. WHEN I ARRIVED ALL THE PERSONNEL AND THE DEPENDENTS HAD BEEN COMPLETELY EVACUATED FROM THE CHANCERY, THE CENTRAL PART, AND FROM THE NORTH AND SOUTH WINGS.

SOVIET FIRE FIGHTING UNITS, WHO HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO THE CHANCERY, WERE ON THE SPOT WHEN I ARRIVED. BUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD INSTRUCTIONS, THEY HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO GO INTO THE PREMISES. IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE MARINES AND SEABEES EFFORTS TO CONTAIN AND EXTINGUISH THE FIRE WERE NOT GOING TO BE SUCCESSFUL. I THEN AUTHORIZED SOVIET FIRE FIGHTERS TO ENTER THE PREMISES.

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OF THOSE OF YOU WHO WERE ON THE SCENE KNOW, : LADDERS WERE RUN UP IN FRONT OF THE CHANCERY TO THE 7TH 8TH, AND 9TH FLOORS. AND SOVIET FIRE FIGHTERS ENTERED FROM THERE AS WELL AS FROM THE BACK STAIRWELL. SOME OF THE FIRE FIGHTERS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY MARINES WEARING AIRPACKS. THE FIRE SEEMED TO BE INITIALLY CONCENTRATED ON THE 8TH AND 9TH FLOORS.

AT ABOUT 1130 PM THE BRITISH EMBASSY WAS CONTACTED AND ASKED TO SEND A FLASH MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON. OBVIOUSLY, OUR COMMUNICATIONS GEAR WAS INOPERABLE. THE BRITISH EMBASSY SAT UP A RADIO COMMUNICATIONS LINK TO WASHINGTON AND THE BRITISH DOCTOR CAME TO THE SCENE OF THE FIRE SINCE OUR DOCTOR, DR NYDELL, WAS ON TEMPORARY DUTY IN KIEV.

AT 1145 PM AN UNCLASSIFIED TELEX LINE TO THE DEPARTMENT, AND A LATER DIRECT TELEPHONE LINE TO THE OPERATIONS CENTER OF THE DEPARTMENT, WAS OPENED IN THE COMMERCIAL OFFICE, WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW. AT 1200PM, ALL OF THIS IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY INSTRUCTIONS, THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR AND THE SECURITY OFFICER ATTEMPTED TO INSPECT THE NINTH FLOOR BUT COULD NOT ENTER BECAUSE OF HEAVY SMOKE. HOWEVER, MARINES WEARING AIRPACKS REMAINED ON THE 9TH FLOOR TO ESCORT SOME SOVIET FIRE FIGHTERS FROM ONE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

UNTIL ABOUT 0200 FROM SEVERAL INSPECTIONS THAT WE CARRIED OUT, IT APPEARED THAT THE FIRE WAS CONTAINED WITHIN THE EIGHTH FLOOR, THE COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS AREA ON THE NINTH FLOOR, AND THE INTER-CONNECTING STAIRWELL IN WHICH WERE STORED A NUMBER OF COMBUSTIBLES INCLUDING SOME DIESEL FUEL FOR OUR EMERGENCY POWER GENERATOR.

THE DOORS TO THE TENTH FLOOR, WHICH IS A CLASSIFIED AREA, WERE CHECKED AND FOUND LOCKED. THE DOOR TO OUR VAULT IN THE COMMUNICATIONS AREA WAS FOUND FUSED BY HEAT AND THUS INOPERABLE. AT 0300 AFTER INSPECTION OF THE 10TH FLOOR CARRIED OUT UNDER MY INSTRUCTIONS WE DISCOVERED THAT THERE WAS NO FIRE IN THAT AREA. AT 0330 THE FIRE SPREAD TO THE CHANCERY ROOF. THE SOVIET FIRE CHIEF ON THE SCENE TOLD THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION THAT

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FIRE HAD BROKEN OUT IN A ROOM TO WHICH SOVIET FIRE FIGHTERS WERE DENIED ACCESS BY A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE.

AT ABOUT 0425 I ORDERED ALL MONITORING PERSONNEL, THAT IS, EMBASSY PERSONNEL WHO WERE FOLLOWING SOVIET FIRE FIGHTERS, TO LEAVE THE CHANCERY BECAUSE IT APPEARED THAT WE FACED A THREAT OF STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE. ALL PERSONNEL WERE ORDERED TO MONITOR EACH SOVIET FIRE ADDER AS WELL AS ALL EXITS TO INSURE THAT NO MATERIAL WAS REMOVED WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION. ABOUT THIS TIME THE SOVIET FIRE CHIEF ON THE SCENE TOLD THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION THAT THE FIRE HAD REACHED ABOVE THE NINTH FLOOR AND COULD NOT BE EFFECTIVELY COMBATED, HE SAID, WITHOUT FIRE FIGHTERS ACCESS ABOVE THE NINTH FLOOR. HE WARNED THAT CONDITIONS WERE APPROACHING THE POINT THAT WITHOUT VIGOROUS MEASURES, INCLUDING ACCESS, THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF THE BUILDING WOULD BE THREATENED. I REPLIED, AND THIS MESSAGE WAS CARRIED TO THE FIRE CHIEF ON THE SCENE, THAT SOVIET FIRE FIGHTERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO THEIR BEST FROM THE NINTH FLOOR AND BY SPRAYING WATER ONTO THE ROOF BUT THEY WERE NOT UNDER ANY CONDITIONS TO ENTER THE TENTH FLOOR. MEANWHILE, AND HERE THE TIMES ARE A LITTLE CONFUSED, BUT I THINK IT WAS AROUND 0500 OR 0515 WE GAVE A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE FIRE TO AN OFFICER OF THE OFFICE OF SOVIET AFFAIRS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE BY TELEPHONE. SHORTLY THEREAFTER I WAS IN TOUCH BY TELEPHONE WITH THE ACTING SECRETARY WARREN CHRISTOPHER AND BRIEFED HIM IN DETAIL ON THE SITUATION.

ABOUT 0520 AM FLAMES ERUPTED THROUGH THE CHANCERY ROOF. AT 0555 AM THE SOVIET FIRE CHIEF CLAIMED THAT AN AMERICAN HAD GIVEN HIS FIRE FIGHTERS PERMISSION TO ENTER THE CHANCERY ROOF. WE DONT KNOW WHETHER THIS WAS THE CASE OR NOT. AT 0600 AM I ORDERED PERSONNEL TO STAND WATCH ON THE 10TH AND THE 9TH FLOORS WHEN IT APPEARED THE DANGER ABOUT WHICH WE HAD BEEN INFORMED EARLIER WAS MINIMAL. AT 0620 WE GAVE ANOTHER REPORT TO THE

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DEPARTMENT BY TELEPHONE. AT 0625 SOVIET FIRE FIGHTERS WERE OBSERVED ON THE ROOF, ABOUT ONE-HALF OF WHICH HAD FALLEN IN. THEY WERE OBSERVED ALSO IN THE ATTIC. AT 0645 I AUTHORIZED TWO OF OUR EMPLOYEES TO INSPECT THE TENTH FLOOR, TWO MORE TO MONITOR THE EIGHTH FLOOR AND ANOTHER TO MONITOR THE ROOF OF THE NORTH WING. AT 0630 THE SOVIET FIRE CHIEF ON THE SCENE SAID THAT HE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT FIRE HAD BROKEN OUT ON THE TENTH FLOOR AND HE REQUESTED ACCESS TO THAT AREA BY HIS FIRE FIGHTERS. I REFUSED TO GRANT ACCESS. AT 0700 THE FIRE APPEARED TO BE UNDER CONTROL BUT SMOKE CONTINUED TO POUR FROM THE ATTIC AND THE NORTH CORNER OF THE NINTH FLOOR. AT 0705 WE MADE ANOTHER REPORT BY TELEPHONE TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. AT 0725, ON MY INSTRUCTIONS, THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR, MR TRACY, ENTERED THE BUILDING TO SURVEY THE UPPER FLOORS. AT 0745 WE HAD ASCERTAINED THAT THE FIRE ON THE ROOF AND IN THE ATTIC HAD BEEN EXTINGUISHED. I THEN INSTRUCTED OUR COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL TO SURVEY THE COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS AREA. AT 0805 THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR REPORTED BACK HIS FINDINGS AND THE RESULT OF HIS SURVEY OF THE UPPER FLOORS.

NOW, THAT GIVES YOU A PLAY-BY-PLAY ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT. NOW, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF I, BEFORE TAKING YOUR QUESTIONS, GAVE YOU OUR ESTIMATE AS TO WHERE WE STAND AT THE MOMENT.

THERE IS STILL A SMOLDERING FIRE UNDER CONTROL BETWEEN THE NINTH AND TENTH FLOORS. SOMETIME AGO THE SOVIET FIRE FIGHTERS INDICATED THAT THEY SAW NO FURTHER NEED FOR THEIR PRESENCE IN THE AREA AND FELT, AND WE AGREED, THAT OUR PERSONNEL COULD MANAGE THE SITUATION. WE ARE CONTINUING TO POUR WATER ON THE AFFECTED AREA AND WE THINK THAT WELL HAVE NO FURTHER PROBLEMS.

AS TO THE STATE OF DAMAGE. THE EIGHTH FLOOR IS COMPLETELY GUTTED. I VISITED THIS MYSELF LATE THIS MORNING AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT IT IS A MESS. ON THE NINTH FLOOR THERE WAS HEAVY DAMAGE TO THE SECURITY OFFICERS ROOM AND IN THE COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS GENERATING ROOM, WITH THE RESULT THAT WE HAVE LOST WHAT WE CALL

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SUPPORT EQUIPMENT FOR OUR COMMUNICATIONS GEAR AND THUS WE ARE NO LONGER IN A POSITION TO USE THAT GEAR FOR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE EMBASSY.

THE ROOF IS IN EFFECT RUINED, HALF OF THE ROOF CAVED IN AND THE REST OF IT HAVING SUFFERED SERIOUS STRUCTURAL DAMAGE. THERE IS SERIOUS WATER DAMAGE ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR AS WELL AS ALL

FLOORS BENEATH THE SEVENTH FLOOR IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF THE CHANCERY. THERE IS WATER AND SMOKE DAMAGE ON THE TENTH FLOOR AND WE ESTIMATE THAT TO BECOME FULLY OPERATIONAL AGAIN, THAT IS IN A POSITION TO USE THE EIGHTH FLOOR AND THE DAMAGED AREA OF THE NINTH FLOORS AND OTHER AREAS, IT WILL TAKE PROBABLY THREE AND PERHAPS FIVE MONTHS. BUT LET ME EMPHASIZE THAT BY THAT I MEAN FULLY OPERATIONAL, TO BE BACK IN BUSINESS AS WE WERE, FOR EXAMPLE, FRIDAY. TO BE OPERATIONAL IN THE SENSE OF BEING IN EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE TOUCH WITH WASHINGTON, I THINK PERHAPS THAT WE CAN SAY THAT THIS WILL BE THE CASE AS SOON AS OUR ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATIONS GEAR ARRIVES ON THE SCENE. THIS IS NOW AT THE AIRPORT, IT ARRIVED ON AN PAN AM FLIGHT THIS EVENING AND WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING IT RELEASED AND WE WILL HAVE IT INSTALLED HOPEFULLY THIS EVENING. AND WHEN THAT IS DONE WE HOPE TO BE BACK IN BUSINESS IN THE SENSE OF HAVING SURE AND SPEEDY COMMUNICATIONS WITH WASHINGTON.

NOW LET ME JUST SAY A WORD ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STAFF. I THINK, AS YOU PROBABLY NOTICED YOURSELF, , MOST MEMBERS OF THE STAFF WERE ON HAND ALL NIGHT AND MOST OF THE DAY. NOT JUST MEMBERS OF THE STAFF BUT DEPENDENTS AS WELL. AND I MUST SAY THAT THEIR PERFORMANCE WAS MAGNIFICENT, BUT IN ALL FRANKNESS IT'S THE SORT OF THING I HAVE COME TO EXPECT FROM THIS DEDICATED BUNCH OF PEOPLE THAT I'VE HAD THE HONOR TO SUPERVISE HERE IN MOSCOW. IT IS PERHAPS UNFAIR TO SINGLE OUT INDIVIDUALS FOR PARTICULAR PRAISE BUT I DO WANT TO SAY THAT WHILE EVERYBODY DID A SUPERB JOB THE MARINES AND SEEBEES WERE OF COURSE ENGAGED IN THE MORE DANGER-  
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OUS ASPECTS OF THE WORK THAT FACED US LAST NIGHT AND PERFORMED MAGNIFICENTLY.

WOULD LIKE TO, AT THE RISK OF PERHAPS GIVING A STIMULUS TO THE WOMEN' LIB MOVEMENT, PAY TRIBUTE TO THE DISTAFF SIDE. AND HERE I RUN THE RISK OF NAMING NAMES: SANDRA GUST OF THE GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE DID A SUPERB JOB OF CARRYING ON LIAISON THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND THE DAY BETWEEN SOME OF THE MEN WORKING IN THE AREA WHO DO NOT KNOW THE LANGUAGE VERY WELL AND THE SOVIET FIRE FIGHTERS. I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION ALSO BARBARA ALLEN OF THE PRESS AND CULTURAL SECTION, WHO IS ALSO A GOOD LINGUIST, FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN TAKING CARE OF THE MARINE WHO WAS OVERCOME BY SMOKE. BUT I REITERATE THAT EVERYBODY DID A SPLENDID JOB AND I THINK ALL OF US INCLUDING OUR SUPERIORS IN WASHINGTON ARE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF WHAT HAPPENED. I THINK THAT'S ABOUT ALL I HAVE TO SAY IN A FORMAL WAY AND I'LL TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS.

Q: THERE APPEARS TO BE IN THE REAR OF THE TENTH FLOOR ONE OR TWO WINDOWS WITH A GREAT DEAL OF BLACK SURROUNDING THEM. IT LOOKS AS IF FIRE AS WELL AS SMOKE AND WATER DAMAGE OCCURRED ON THE TENTH FLOOR. DID FIRE OCCUR UP THERE, AND IF SO WERE ANY OF THE HIGHLY CLASSIFIED MATERIALS COMPROMISED?

AMB: WELL THE AREA YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, I BELIEVE, IS THE AREA BETWEEN THE NINTH AND TENTH FLOORS. THAT IS THE FLOOR OF THE TENTH FLOOR AND THE CEILING OF THE NINTH FLOOR WHERE THE SMOLD-ERING IS STILL GOING ON AND THAT ACCOUNTS FOR THE SMUDGED AREA. TO THE SECOND PART OF THE QUESTION, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THERE'S BEEN NO COMPROMISE OF OUR CLASSIFIED EQUIPMENT OR MATERIALS.

Q: YOU SEEMED TO NOTE THAT FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME SOVIET FIRE FIGHTERS WERE NOT MONITORED. DID SUBSEQUENT INSPECTION OF THE TENTH FLOOR AND THE COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS.

AMB: THE SOVIET FIRE FIGHTERS WERE NEVER ON THE TENTH FLOOR. IN THE OTHER CLASSIFIED AREAS OF THE CHANCERY, THE NINTH FLOOR UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTICULARLY, THEY WERE MONITORED, WE THINK, AT ALL TIMES.

Q: AS FAR AS YOU CAN ASCERTAIN THERE HAS BEEN NO BREACH OF SECURITY?

AMB: AS FAR AS WE KNOW. AND I THINK WE ARE REASONABLY SURE OF OUR FACTS.

Q: WERE THERE SOVIET FIRE FIGHTERS IN COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS AT ANY TIME UNSUPERVISED THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF SIR?

AMB: NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF BUT IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT THEY DID GET IN WITHOUT OUR MONITORS BEING ON HAND.

Q: WOULD THAT CONSTITUTE A SECURITY BREACH?

AMB: IT COULD. BUT SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE THERE HAS BEEN NO COMPROMISE.

Q: WHICH IS TO SAY THAT SAFES AND OTHER LOCKED AREAS REMAINED CLOSED WITH NO EVIDENCE THAT THEY HAD BEEN OPENED?

AMB: SOME OF THE SAFES WERE LEFT OPEN, BUT MIND YOU WHILE WE WERE NOT AT ALL TIMES IN THE BUILDING, AS I TOLD YOU IN RUNNING THROUGH THE SCENARIO, THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WITHDREW ALL AMERICAN PERSONNEL BECAUSE THERE SEEMED TO BE A DANGER OF STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE, EVEN AT THAT TIME ALL EXITS FROM THE BUILDING WERE MONITORED, SO THAT NOTHING WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE BUILDING.

Q: WAS ANYBODY STOPPED? WAS THERE ANY OCCASION TO SUSPECT ANY PERSON OR TO INSPECT?

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AMB: THERE WERE NO GROUNDS FOR SUSPICION OF THAT SORT.

Q: MR. AMBASSADOR, SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE CHRONOLOGY WHERE YOU REFERRED TO THE SOVIET FIRE CHIEF SAYING THAT HE NEEDED ACCESS TO CERTAIN AREAS OF THE EMBASSY I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT PERHAPS THAT HE, IN OUR VIEW, PERHAPS WAS USING THE SITUATION TO GET TO PLACES WHERE HE SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE. IS THAT THE IMPRESSION YOU MEANT TO LEAVE?

AMB: THAT'S PERHAPS AN UNFAIR ASSUMPTION. LET ME SAY SIMPLY THAT IN MY VIEW AND IN THE VIEW OF ALL AMERICAN PERSONNEL ON THE SCENE THE SOVIET FIRE FIGHTERS DID A SPLENDID JOB UNDER RATHER DIFFICULT CONDITIONS AND I THINK WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL INDEED FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN BRINGING THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT TO AN END- WITH SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE, BUT I THINK WE ALL RECOGNIZE THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE. NOW ON THE THAT THEME I THINK THAT I SHOULD TELL YOU THAT I'VE SENT OFF A LETTER TO THE CHIEF OF THE MAIN ADMINISTRATION FOR FIRE PROTECTION IN MOSCOW, GENERAL ABUKHOV, EXPRESSING MY PERSONAL APPRECIATION AND THE APPRECIATION OF THE EMBASSY FOR THEIR WORK LAST NIGHT AND THROUGHOUT THE DAY. RATHER THAN READ THIS LETTER TO YOU I WILL ASK RAY BENSON TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO YOU IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.

Q: COULD YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT THIS COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT THAT CAME IN TONIGHT? WHERE IT CAME FROM? WHERE IT WILL BE INSTALLED?

AMB: IT CAME FROM BONN. IT IS STANDBY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN EMERGENCIES SUCH AS WE HAVE AT THE MOMENT. IT WILL PROBABLY BE INSTALLED ON THE FIRST FLOOR BUT PRECISELY WHERE WE HAVE NOT DECIDED. THIS WILL DEPEND UPON TOM TRACY'S JUDGEMENT AND THE SEABEES.

Q: IS THIS AN ENTIRE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WE'RE TALKING ABOUT?

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AMB: IT WILL PERMIT US TO COMMUNICATE AS EFFICIENTLY WITH WASHINGTON AND OTHER POSTS AS OUR STANDARD EQUIPMENT. OBVIOUSLY IT CANNOT CARRY THE VOLUME THAT OUR USUAL EQUIPMENT CAN.

Q: WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE EMBASSY BUILDING WOULD YOU SAY IS STILL USABLE, INCLUDING APARTMENTS AND OFFICES?

AMB: ALL OF THE NORTH WING AND ALL OF THE SOUTH WING, THE PEOPLE WHO WERE EVACUATED HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR APARTMENTS IN THOSE WINGS. AT THE MOMENT, NONE OF THE OFFICE UNITS OR THE LIVING QUARTERS IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE CHANCERY ARE BEING USED. THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT THEY ARE NOT USABLE. THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE WATER DAMAGE, AS I SAID BEFORE, ON ALL FLOORS OF THE CENTRAL SECTION. WE THINK IT WILL BE AT LEAST TWO OR THREE DAYS BEFORE THE OCCUPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR LIVING QUARTERS. THEY, INCIDENTALLY, ARE BEING WELL CARED FOR IN THE OTHER APARTMENT UNITS AROUND TOWN, STAYING WITH FRIENDS OF THEIRS IN THE EMBASSY. MOST OF THEM STAYED LAST NIGHT IN SPASO HOUSE WHERE PROVISIONS WERE MADE FOR WINING AND DINING, SLEEPING IN THE BALLROOM IN THE TRADITION OF THE HOSPITALITY TO WHICH THEY HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED AT SPASO HOUSE.

Q: WHEN DID YOU GO HOME? YOU ARRIVED AT 1100 OR 1115.

AMB: I WENT HOME FIRST AT 0630 OR 0645 AM TO GET OUT OF MY BLACK TIE BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT WAS A RATHER INAPPROPRIATE ATTIRE FOR A MAN WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SUPERVISING THIS TYPE OF OPERATION. AND I RETURNED IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHANGING MY CLOTHES. I WENT BACK AGAIN AT 1030 AM TO SPASO HOUSE FOR BREAKFAST AND AN HOUR'S SLEEP AND RETURNED TO THE SCENE ONCE MORE AND STAYED UNTIL ABOUT 2:30 PM, AT WHICH TIME THE SITUATION SEEMED UNDER CONTROL AND I WENT BACK TO SPASO WITH THE INTENTION OF GETTING SOME SLEEP. BUT UNFORTUNATELY MY TIME WAS SPENT COMMUNICATING WITH WASHINGTON, UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND WITH PERSONNEL AT THE EMBASSY. I CAME BACK HERE AT 5:30 PM.

Q: THERE WAS A TIME EARLY IN THE MORNING YOU HAD TO WEIGH LETTING THE SOVIET FIRE CHIEF ON THE FLOOR AGAINST THE DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION THAT MIGHT OCCUR. COULD YOU TELL US SOME OF WHAT WAS GOING ON IN YOUR MIND DURING THAT PERIOD.

AMB: WELL MY PRINCIPAL CONCERN THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE GRIEVOUS AFFAIR WAS THE SAFETY OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL. SECONDLY OF COURSE MY CONCERN WAS THE SAFETY OF OUR CLASSIFIED EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION. I THINK PERHAPS THE BEST WAY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION IS TO TELL YOU THAT IF I HAD FELT AT ANY TIME THAT AMERICAN PERSONNEL WERE IN DANGER THE SECOND CONCERN WOULD HAVE BEEN PUT ON THE SHELF. FORTUNATELY, I DID NOT FACE THAT CONTINGENCY.

Q: CAN YOU DESCRIBE FOR US THE EFFORT THAT IS UNDERWAY AT THE MOMENT TO BRING PERSONNEL IN HERE TO BEGIN THE CLEANUP JOB, TO BRING EQUIPMENT IN?



AMBASSADOR TOON'S ANSWER: YES. I MUST SAY WE HAVE GOTTEN EXCELLENT COOPERATION FROM WASHINGTON, WHICH OF COURSE WE ALWAYS HAVE, AND AS A RESULT OF THIS COOPERATION HAVE ON THE WAY TWO STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS WHO WILL HELP US ASSESS THE DAMAGE AND DECIDE WHAT LIES AHEAD OF US IN THE WAY OF RECONSTRUCTION. WE HAVE FOUR NAVY SEABEES COMING IN TO SUPPLEMENT THE SMALL SEABEE CONTINGENT WE HAVE HERE. WE HAVE TWO AND THEY'RE EXHAUSTED BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN WORKING FULL TIME. WE HAVE TEN MARINES HERE AND FOUR COMING IN AND IF WE FEEL WE NEED ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL OR ADDITIONAL HELP OF ANY KIND, I HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT MAXIMUM EFFORTS WILL BE MADE IN WASHINGTON TO ACCOMMODATE OUR NEEDS.

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Q: ARE TELEPHONES AND POWER IN PART RESTORED?

AMB: THE POWER, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, HAS BEEN RESTORED TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH WINGS AND THE COMPOUND AREAS, THAT IS, THE SNACK BAR AND CLINIC AND THE OTHER UNITS IN THE COMPOUND. THERE WAS TELEPHONE SERVICE, IT WAS SLIGHTLY INTERRUPTED, BUT I THINK IT'S BACK IN SHAPE NOW. THE BASEMENT AREA OF THE CENTRAL SECTION HAS POWER, THE REST IS WITHOUT POWER.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY WORD ON HOW THE FIRE BEGAN?

AMB: WE THINK - WITHOUT REALLY KNOWING - THAT IT WAS AN ELECTRICAL FAULT. HAVING SEEN THE SAD STATE OF THE WIRING SYSTEM IN THE CHANCEREY, I CAN WELL BELIEVE THAT THIS IS WHAT IT WAS.

TO ANTICIPATE ANOTHER QUESTION, THERE IS NO BASIS IN MY VIEW FOR ANY SORT OF SUSPICION OF A SINISTER SOVIET BACKDROP TO THIS. I THINK THIS WAS EVIDENT PRIMARILY BY THE TREMENDOUS EFFORTS MADE BY THE SOVIET PERSONNEL ON THE SCENE. I SHOULD ALSO TELL YOU THAT I HAVE HAD A RATHER WARM EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY AND AN OFFER OF HELP BY THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. KORNIYENKO, WHICH WAS TRULY APPRECIATED BY ALL OF US.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE BEFORE WE CAN GET NEW COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT IN HERE THAT WILL RESTORE THE EMBASSY TO ITS FULL ORIGINAL CAPACITY?

AMB: I WOULD SAY THAT WITHIN THE THREE TO FIVE MONTH PERIOD I HAVE INDICATED.

Q: YOU WILL BE OPERATING AT SOMETHING FAR LESS THAN TOTAL INFORMATION CAPACITY FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO FIVE MONTHS. IS THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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CORRECT?

AMB: I THINK WE WILL BE FULLY FUNCTIONING.

Q: BUT NOT FULLY FUNCTIONING IN TERMS OF THE CAPACITY OF YOUR INFORMATION SYSTEM?

AMB: THAT IS RIGHT.

Q: IS THERE ANY IDEA OF HOW MUCH OF A LOSS OF CAPACITY WE ARE TALKING ABOUT? FIFTY PERCENT?

AMB: IT WOULD BE AWFULLY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO SAY. I DON'T REALLY KNOW THE CAPACITY OF THIS NEW EQUIPMENT AND HOW IT WILL WORK ONCE IT'S INSTALLED. I DO WANT TO STRESS THAT WE WILL BE OPERATIONAL.

Q: WILL YOU HAVE TO USE THE BRITISH EMBASSY OR ANY OTHER FACILITIES OR CAN YOU MAKE DO WITH WHAT YOU'VE GOT OVER THERE AND HERE?

AMB: I THINK WE CAN HANDLE THIS OURSELVES, BUT IF NOT WE HAVE GOOD FRIENDS IN TOWN WHO WILL GIVE US THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE A DOLLAR FIGURE OF ANY KIND?

AMB: NO.

Q: DID YOU SAY THAT THE NEW BACKUP EQUIPMENT WOULD BE IN PLACE BY TOMORROW MORNING OR TONIGHT?

AMB: POSSIBLY TONIGHT.

Q: ONCE THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS HAVE COME AND DECIDED WHAT HAS TO BE DONE, HOW MUCH OF THAT WORK WILL BE DONE BY SOVIETS?

AMB: MOST OF THE WORK IN THE CLASSIFIED AREAS WILL BE DONE BY OUR PEOPLE. THE WORK ELSEWHERE WILL BE DONE BY OUR PEOPLE AS WELL.  
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AS SOVIETS.

Q: WE WERE TOLD LAST NIGHT THAT WHEN THE SOVIET FIREMEN ARRIVED ONE OF THE THINGS THEY WERE INTERESTED IN WERE THE DUCT PLANS FOR THE BUILDING AND THAT THERE WAS SOME INABILITY TO GET OUT THAT PLAN BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN SO MANY ALTERATIONS TO THE BUILDING OVER THE YEARS THAT COHERENT PLANS DO NOT EXIST?

AMB: I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THAT INFORMATION. THEY WERE FULLY INFORMED AND ACCURATELY INFORMED.

Q: IS THERE ANYTHING THAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN 2200 AND MIDNIGHT THAT WOULD HAVE IN ANY WAY ALTERED THE OUTCOME?

AMB: I DON'T THINK SO. I THINK WE ALL HAVE TO FACE THE FACT THAT WE ARE OCCUPYING A BUILDING THAT IS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN PERFECT, A BUILDING OF CONSTRUCTION OTHER THAN OUR OWN. I THINK WE WILL CONTINUE TO FACE THE RISKS OF THIS SORT OF THING UNTIL WE MOVE INTO OUR NEW CHANCERY, WHICH IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR 1982.

Q: BACK TO THE SECURITY ANGLE AGAIN. WHAT ACCOUNTED FOR THE PECULIAR BEHAVIOR OF THE POLICE EARLY IN THE MORNING AFTER THE FIRE WAS WELL UNDER CONTROL. AS YOU RECALL THEY BEGAN TO GET PRETTY CLOSE TO NASTY, PUSHING ALL AMERICANS ASIDE WHEN THEY HAD LET US COME CLOSE WHEN THE FIRE WAS RAGING. I HAD THE IMPRESSION AT THE MOMENT THAT THERE WAS SOME DIFFICULTY IN GETTING AMERICANS IN TO MONITOR WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THAT PERIOD, WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN TWENTY MINUTES OR HALF AN HOUR.

AMB: YOUR QUESTION IS REALLY IN TWO PARTS. FIRST WITH REGARD TO THE BEHAVIOR OF THE MILITIA ON THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE CHANCERY, I WAS NOT VERY HAPPY WITH THAT BEHAVIOR. BUT SINCE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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OVERALL BEHAVIOR OF THE SOVIET PERSONNEL, PARTICULARLY THE FIREFIGHTERS, WAS HIGHLY COMMENDABLE I WOULD NOT REALLY WISH TO SERIOUSLY CRITICIZE THE BEHAVIOR OF THE MILITIA. I THINK WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT AT ONE POINT IT WAS THOUGHT THERE WAS A DANGER OF THE COLLAPSE OF THE ENTIRE CHANCERY, AT LEAST THE CENTRAL SECTION, AND POSSIBLY OF AN EXPLOSION. IT WAS AT THAT POINT THAT THE MILITIA MEN WERE, WE MIGHT SAY, OVERZEALOUS IN THE PURSUIT OF THEIR DUTIES. BUT CERTAINLY ONCE IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE PERSONNEL I THOUGHT SHOULD BE WITH ME SHOULD BE WITH ME, THEN THE TROUBLE WAS MENDED. ON THE SECOND QUESTION ABOUT PROBLEMS OF ACCESS IN THE INITIAL STAGES OF THE FIRE, SOME OF OUR PERSONNEL NEEDED SOVIET AIR EQUIPMENT AND THERE WAS A BIT OF A FLAP OVER HAVING ACCESS TO THIS AIR EQUIPMENT. BUT THIS I THINK WAS PRIMARILY THE RESULT OF SOME MISUNDERSTANDING, POSSIBLY A LANGUAGE MISUNDERSTANDING, WHICH WAS QUICKLY RESOLVED AND IN FACT OUR PERSONNEL DID USE SOVIET AIR PACKS AS WELL AS OUR OWN AND BRITISH.

Q: THE FIRE CHIEF SAID AFTER THE FIRE APPEARED TO BE OUT THAT THE FIRE HAD BROKEN OUT IN A ROOM TO WHICH FIRE FIGHTERS HAD BEEN DENIED ACCESS. ARE YOU AWARE THAT THIS WAS THE CASE, THAT THEY WERE DENIED ACCESS, AND TO WHAT ROOM?

AMB: NO, THIS REMAINS A PUZZLE TO US. WE CANT FIND ANYBODY THAT MADE THAT SORT OF STATEMENT TO THOSE FIRE FIGHTERS. IN FACT ANY STATEMENT WITH REGARDS TO ACCESS TO ANY AREA CAME EXPLICITLY FROM ME.

Q: YOU ALSO MENTIONED THAT THERE WAS A POINT WHEN THE FIRE CHIEF SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN GRANTED ACCESS TO THE ROOF AND YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T AWARE OF THAT. SO THEY WENT THERE WITHOUT SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION, IS THAT A PROBLEM?

AMB: NO. THE QUESTION AROSE WHEN THEY ASKED FOR ACCESS TO THE TENTH FLOOR. I TOLD THEM TO DO THE BEST THEY COULD IN MANAGING THE PROBLEM BY WETTING THE ROOF FROM THE TOP AND BY GOING AT IT  
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FROM THE NINTH FLOOR. UNDER NO CONDITIONS WERE THEY TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE TENTH FLOOR.

Q. SO YOU DID AUTHORIZE THEM TO GET ON THE ROOF?

AMB: OH YES.

Q: MR. AMBASSADOR, HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO GET INTO THE C AND R FACILITY? YOU SAID THE LOCK WAS MELTED.

AMB: YES, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET IN.

Q:WHAT IS THE CONDITION? WAS IT ENTIRELEY DESTROYED?

AMB: NO, AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT S IN SURPRISINGLY GOOD SHAPE. AS I INDICATED TO YOU OUR SUPPORT EQUIPMENT WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED, AND IT'S PRIMARILY FOR THIS REASON THAT WE CAN'T USE THE OTHER EQUIPMENT IN THE AREA.

Q: BUT THE MATERIAL IN THE VAULT ITSELF YOU SAY IS IN SURPRISINGLY GOOD SHAPE?

AMB: YES.

Q: THE SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT ON THE TENTH FLOOR, HAVE THEY BEEN CHECKED YET THEY WERE NOT DAMAGED?

AMB: THEY WERE NOT DAMAGED ALTHOUGH THERE WAS WATER AND SMOKE DAMAGE.

Q: AND THE DAMAGE WAS MINIMAL ON THE TENTH FLOOR?

AMB: THERE IS WATER AND SMOKE DAMAGE ON THE TENTH FLOOR.  
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Q: CAN YOU TELL US BRIEFLY HOW LONG WAS THE PERIOD OF TIME FOR CONCERN OF AN ACTUAL STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE, HOW LONG DID THAT CRISIS PERIOD LAST?

AMB: I WOULD THINK THAT WAS PROBABLY ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES OR HALF AN HOUR. THAT'S MY RECOLLECTION.

Q: AND THAT'S HOW LONG THERE WERE NO AMERICAN PERSONNEL THERE?

AMB: ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES.

Q: HOW ABOUT YOUR OWN OFFICE

AMB: THERE'S SLIGHT SMOKE DAMAGE, BUT VERY SLIGHT, AND THE SAME THING APPLIES TO THE DCM'S OFFICE.

Q: I TAKE IT THERE'S STILL THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE STRUCTURAL PEOPLE COMING IN MIGHT SAY THOSE FAMILIES CANNOT MOVE BACK INTO THE CENTRAL WING IF THERE IS SERIOUS STRUCTURAL DAMAGE?

AMB: THERE IS THAT POSSIBILITY PRIMARILY BECAUSE WATER IS STILL DRIPPING DOWN TO ALL THE FLOORS, AND THIS UNDOUBTEDLY HAD A WEAKENING EFFECT ON THE BEAMS AND WE'LL JUST HAVE TO AWAIT THEIR JUDGMENT ON THIS.

Q: WHEN ARE THEY DUE IN?

AMB: I THINK THEY'RE DUE IN TONIGHT OR TOMORROW.

Q: ARE THEY FROM WASHINGTON?

AMB: I THINK THEY'RE EUROPEAN BASED.

Q: ARE THE SOVIETS EXPEDITING VISAS?

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AMB: WE DON'T ANTICIPATE ANY PROBLEM, BUT THIS IS SATURDAY. WE MAY HAVE BEAURACRATIC PROBLEMS. BUT WE THINK WE CAN WORK IT OUT.

Q: MR. AMBASSADOR, WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE CHANCERY, OF THE TOP THREE FLOORS, IS CURRENTLY USABLE. MONDAY CAN YOU USE...

AMB: OH YES, WE PLAN TO USE MY OFFICE AND THE DCM'S OFFICE, THE SEVENTH FLOOR IF, IN THE OPINION OF THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS, THIS IS A SAFE THING TO DO. THE EIGHTH FLOOR IS OUR COMPLETELY. THE NINTH FLOOR FROM JUST BEHIND THE MARINE DESK TO THE END IS NOT USABLE. YOU CAN FIGURE OUT THE PERCENTAGES YOURSELF. I WOULD SAY PROBABLY THIRTY PERCENT IS USABLE.

Q: CAN YOU USE THE TENTH FLOOR?

AMB: YES.

Q: CAN THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS BASICALLY DO THEIR JOBS TOMORROW AND GIVE YOU AT LEAST A PRELIMINARY FIX ON THE SITUATION TOMORROW?

AMB: WE HOPE SO.

Q: MR. AMBASSADOR, YOU SAID THAT THERE WERE AT LEAST THREE DIFFERENT OCCASIONS WHEN THE FIRE CHIEF ASKED FOR ACCESS AND YOU TURNED HIM DOWN, IS THAT RIGHT, THREE?

AMB: WELL, I WOULD HAVE TO GO OVER MY NOTES. THERE WERE AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS AND POSSIBLY THREE.

Q: WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO LET THAT AREA BURN RATHER THEN LET THEM IN THERE?

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AMB: WELL THAT'S A QUESTION WHICH FORTUNATELY I DID NOT HAVE TO FACE.

Q: I'M SURE YOU HAD TO CONSIDER IT AT SOME POINT, DIDN'T YOU?

AMB: I DID BUT, IN ALL RESPECT, THAT'S AN IFFY QUESTION. AND RATHER NOT ANSWER THAT.

Q: DID I UNDERSTAND YOU TO DAY THAT THERE WERE SOME SAFES LEFT OPEN THAT WERE IN THE AREAS THAT THE SOVIET FIREMEN WERE IN?

AMB: THAT'S RIGHT.

Q: DID ANY OF THOSE SAFES CONTAIN MATERIALS WHICH WERE NOT ACCOUNTED FOR?

AMB: PROBABLY CLASSIFIED MATERIALS BUT I DON'T THINK THERE WAS ANY COMPROMISE.

Q: HOW CAN YOU BE SURE OF THAT?

AMB: I SAID I DON'T THINK THERE WAS ANY COMPROMISE.

Q: THE FACT THAT SAFES WERE OPEN WOULD THAT BE A VIOLATION OF STANDARD PROCEDURES OR A DEVIATION FROM STANDARD PROCEDURES TO FIND SAFES OPEN.

AMB: I DON'T THINK SO. OBVIOUSLY IT'S DESIREABLE TO CLOSE ALL SAFES BUT IN THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION IT WAS DANGEROUS AND PEOPLE HAD TO EVACUATE THE AREA.

Q: THESE WERE SAFES IN C AND R?

AMB: YES.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF HOW MANY FIREMEN IN TOTAL WERE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE AREA?

AMB: I WOULD SAY SEVERAL HUNDRED.

Q: MR. AMBASSADOR, I WAS WONDERING, IS THERE ANY KIND OF STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE, RULES OF INSTRUCTION, SHALL WE SAY, FOR AN AMBASSADOR IN EMERGENCIES LIKE THIS? OR IS IT ALWAYS UP TO YOUR DISCRETION? FOR EXAMPLE, LET'S SAY THERE WAS A THREAT OF A REAL BREACH OF SECURITY. COULD YOU WITHIN THE LIMITS ALLOWED YOU JUST SAY LET THE BUILDING BURN? I UNDERSTAND THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR DID THIS IN OTTAWA WHEN THEIR EMBASSY BURNED THERE. HE JUST LET THE BUILDING BURN. (NOTE: QUESTION FROM PHIL CAPUTO).

AMB: PHIL, AS I TOLD YOU THE OTHER DAY, I THINK SOME OF US WILL BE DELIGHTED WHEN YOU LEAVE THE FIELD OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM. (LAUGHTER) YOU'RE ASKING THE QUESTION IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT WAY WHICH I REFUSED TO ANSWER BECAUSE IT'S AN IFFY QUESTION. LET ME PUT IT IN GENERAL TERMS, IF I MAY. OF COURSE THERE ARE PARAMETERS WITHIN WHICH ANY AMBASSADOR OR ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL MUST OPERATE. BUT BASICALLY IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS I THINK ONE HAS TO RELY ON ONE'S JUDGMENT AS TO WHAT IS RIGHT AND PROPER. THAT IMPOSES A BURDEN ON US BUT THAT'S WHAT WE GET PAID FOR.

Q: DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT GIVE YOU ANY SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS SO THAT IN THE EVENT YOU FACED THAT QUESTION...

AMB: I TOLD MR CHRISTOPHER WHAT THE SITUATION WAS AND WHAT I INTENDED TO DO AND THAT WAS THE NATURE OF OUR CONVERSATION.

Q: HE DID NOT GIVE YOU ANY SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS?

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AMB: IT WAS PRIMARILY A REPORT TO HIM ON THE SITUATION AND MY ASSESSMENT OF WHAT WAS TO BE DONE.

Q: WERE YOU IN CONTACT WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AT ANY TIME DURING THIS PERIOD?

AMB: NO. I DID HAVE A VERY WARM MESSAGE FROM MR. VANCE FROM HIS PLANE IN TOKYO.

Q: DOES THE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT REFER TO THE CYPHER SYSTEM? YOU SAY YOU CAN'T USE YOUR COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF SUPPORT EQUIPMENT?

AMB: THAT'S THE POWER SUPPLY, GENERATING EQUIPMENT AND THAT SORT OF THING PRIMARILY.

Q: CAN YOU USE THIS FIRE TO SPEED UP THE NEW BUILDING?

AMB: WITH ALL RESPECT TO OUR SOVIET HOSTS, THE FAULT DOES NOT LIE WITH THEM NOW. IF THERE'S ANY FAULT OR DELAY IT RESTS WITH US. BUT I THINK WE'RE MOVING AHEAD AS FAST AS WE CAN AND I WOULD ANTICIPATE TURNING OVER THE FIRST SHOVEL NEXT SPRING AND LEAVE THE PLEASURE OF DEDICATING THE BUILDING TO MY SUCCESSOR AT LEAST ONCE REMOVED.

END TEXT  
UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** SEQUENTLY, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WAS TAKEN TO BOTKIN HOSPITAL, WHERE HE WAS GIVEN TREATMENT. I SHOULD SAY AT THIS POINT THAT I WAS AT THE RUMANIAN EM BASSY ATTENDING A FAREWELL D  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PDIP, US, UR, (TOON, MALCOLM)  
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